

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 2148 Session of  
2026

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KHAN, MAYES, BURGOS, KINKEAD, PIELLI, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, GUENST, SANCHEZ, RIVERA, GUZMAN, FIEDLER, ISAACSON, RABB, HOWARD, K.HARRIS, OTTEN, POWELL, KENYATTA, BELLMON, D. WILLIAMS, SMITH-WADE-EL, PARKER, FRANKEL, BOYD, WEBSTER, DALEY, MALAGARI, SOLOMON, CERRATO, HANBIDGE, MERSKI, KAZEEM, O'MARA AND STEELE, JANUARY 16, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 20, 2026

## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," requiring certain school entities to  
6 adopt policies and procedures relating to access to school  
7 property by individuals or certain enforcement officials; and  
8 providing for training, reporting to governing bodies of  
9 school entities and for department guidelines.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
13 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
14 article to read:

15 ARTICLE XIII-F

16 WELCOMING SCHOOLS

17 Section 1301-F. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2       "Department." The Department of Education of the  
3       Commonwealth.

4       "Enforcement agency." An immigration enforcement agency or a  
5       law enforcement agency.

6       "Enforcement official." An official of an enforcement  
7       agency.

8       "Immigration enforcement agency." The United States  
9       Department of Homeland Security and its subagencies, including,  
10       but not limited to:

11            (1) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
12            including Homeland Security Investigations.

13            (2) United States Customs and Border Protection.

14            (3) United States Marshals Service.

15            (4) United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

16            (5) United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms  
17        and Explosives.

18            (6) Any State or local law enforcement agency acting on  
19        behalf of the United States Immigration and Customs  
20        Enforcement, or an agent or officer for any Federal, State or  
21        local agency attempting to enforce Federal immigration law.

22            (7) Any:

23                (i) individual authorized to conduct enforcement of  
24        Federal immigration laws; or

25                (ii) Federal agent charged with enforcement of civil  
26        immigration laws.

27        "Law enforcement agency." Any of the following:

28                (1) A police department of a city, borough, incorporated  
29        town or township.

30                (2) The Pennsylvania State Police.

1                   (3) A district attorney's office.

2                   (4) The Office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

3                   (5) A sheriff or deputy sheriff.

4                   "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area

5                   career and technical school, charter school, regional charter

6                   school or cyber charter school.

7                   "School personnel." An individual within the control of or

8                   acting on behalf of a school district, including, but not

9                   limited to, a school district employee, school bus driver of a

10                   school-district-owned bus, after-school provider, contractor,

11                   consultant, volunteer, vendor, school security officer, school

12                   resource officer as defined in section 1301-C or service

13                   provider.

14                   "School zone." School property owned by, leased by or under

15                   the control of a school entity.

16                   Section 1302-F. Welcoming schools.

17                   Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year

18                   thereafter, each school entity shall provide assurance of

19                   continued access of the school entity's school zones to each

20                   student, parent, guardian and school personnel, regardless of

21                   immigration status.

22                   Section 1303-F. Resolution.

23                   (a) Policies and procedures required.--Within 90 days of the

24                   effective date of this subsection, each school entity shall

25                   develop policies and procedures for creating and promoting an

26                   inclusive learning environment in accordance with section 1304-

27                   F.

28                   (b) Resolution required.--Each board of directors or

29                   governing body of a school entity shall adopt the policies and

30                   procedures by resolution, which must be adopted by majority vote

1 at a public meeting. At least 45 days prior to the public  
2 meeting, the board of directors or governing body shall make  
3 available for public inspection the resolution proposed for  
4 adoption.

5 (c) Publication of resolution.--A school entity shall make  
6 the resolution required under subsection (b) available, in each  
7 language spoken by a student at the student's home, to all  
8 students, parents, guardians and school personnel no less than  
9 30 days prior to the public meeting required under subsection  
10 (b). A school entity shall publish the resolution in the same  
11 manner and as a part of the publication of notice of the public  
12 meeting.

13 (d) Review and amendment of policies and procedures.--No  
14 later than 30 days before the beginning of each school year, and  
15 thereafter each quarter of the school year, a school entity  
16 shall review the policies and procedures adopted under this  
17 section. If amendment of the policies and procedures is  
18 necessary, the school entity shall amend its policies and  
19 procedures through the resolution process specified in this  
20 section.

21 Section 1304-F. Policy and procedure.

22 (a) Requirements.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a  
23 school entity shall adopt policies and procedures for creating  
24 and promoting a welcoming and inclusive learning environment in  
25 accordance with this article. The policies and procedures shall  
26 include the following requirements:

27 (1) A school entity shall designate a superintendent,  
28 other chief administrative officer or school personnel to  
29 perform the duties and to respond under this article to any  
30 request under this article to enter any part of its school

1       zone.

2       (2) A school entity shall designate areas of the school  
3       zone that are:

4           (i) public with entry accessible to the public,  
5           including lobby and waiting areas;  
6           (ii) nonpublic with entry prohibited to the public,  
7           including the interior areas of a school building, a  
8           school bus or the area designated for arrival or  
9           departure of students traveling by school bus; and  
10           (iii) areas with adjustable status of public and  
11           nonpublic dependent on time and usage of area. A school  
12           entity shall develop guidelines for adjustable status.

13       (3) A school entity shall post signage for:

14           (i) designated public or nonpublic areas; and  
15           (ii) adjustable areas.

16       (4) If an officer or agent of an immigration enforcement  
17       agency requests entry to a school zone, regardless of a  
18       presentment of a signed judicial warrant, the designated  
19       school personnel shall:

20           (i) Provide the officer or agent with a copy of the  
21           welcoming schools resolution.

22           (ii) Request official identification and contact  
23           information from the officers or agents and photocopy the  
24           identification and information for the school entity's  
25           record.

26           (iii) Document statements and grounds for the  
27           request made by the officer or agent requesting entry and  
28           statements or acts taken by any officer or agent present.

29           (iv) Document the names of any students or school  
30           personnel identified by the officer or agent.

(v) Provide digital transmittal of all documentation to the school entity solicitor.

(5) The designated school personnel shall:

(i) request an enforcement official to present to the designated school personnel a signed judicial warrant that properly extends to the school zone where the subject of the warrant is located; and

(ii) photocopy the warrant provided to the school entity for its record and for concurrent digital transmittal to the school entity solicitor.

(6) The designated school personnel has no authority to consent to entry and the enforcement official or agent's request to enter the school entity's premises is deemed denied in the event that any of the following factors exist:

(i) the enforcement official fails to present a signed judicial warrant;

(ii) the enforcement official presents a judicial warrant that is not signed;

(iii) the enforcement official presents a judicial warrant that is incomplete, contains inaccurate information or is otherwise improper; or

(iv) the enforcement official presents an administrative warrant and no exigent circumstances are specifically claimed to exist.

(7) A contract or agreement entered into by a school entity with a school bus company or operator after the effective date of this paragraph shall include a provision that prohibits the company, operator or its employees from:

(i) assisting or providing personal information  
related to a student assigned to a bus provided by the

school bus company or operator, including the student's name, home address, bus stop or immigration status; or  
(ii) permitting an enforcement official or agent to enter the bus if at least one factor under paragraph (6) exists.

(8) (i) Regardless of whether within a school zone or situate outside the boundaries of a school zone, an individual who is deemed school personnel may not:

- (A) inquire into the immigration status of a student, a student's family, parent or guardian; or
- (B) formally or informally provide or discuss information related to the immigration status of a student, a student's parent or guardian, a member of the student's family or an individual who is deemed school personnel.

(ii) The board of directors or governing body of a school entity must establish a disciplinary process and procedure for an individual who is deemed school personnel and who violates subparagraph (i).

(9) School personnel must refuse an enforcement official's entry to a school zone for the purpose of a wellness check when the designated school personnel, at the personnel's discretion, determines the wellness check requires a lawful warrant.

(10) In the event circumstances permit, a request made by an immigration enforcement agency or other enforcement agency for access to a school entity's building, facility, grounds, school zone or school bus must be directed to the school entity's superintendent and school solicitor 24 hours before the requested time of entry for determination of

1       whether to grant the request. The requesting official must:

2           (i) present official credentials;

3           (ii) have the proper signed judicial warrant; and

4           (iii) receive written approval from the

5           superintendent to enter the school entity's building,

6           facility, grounds or school zone.

7       (11) Regarding a student's parent or guardian, or the  
8       student when the student is over 18 years of age, the school  
9       entity shall:

10           (i) not share student records or other confidential  
11       information protected by Federal or State law; and

12           (ii) provide notice of the right to opt out of

13           disclosing directory information such as a home address

14           and place of birth at least twice a year in August and

15           January.

16       (b) Notification.--The school entity shall notify the parent  
17       or guardian of any student subject to a request for access or  
18       entry to a school entity or school zone by an immigration  
19       enforcement agency or an enforcement agency within 48 hours of  
20       the request.

21       (c) Review of existing policy.--A school entity that  
22       previously adopted a policy satisfying the requirements of  
23       subsection (a) shall review and update, if necessary, the  
24       existing policy.

25       Section 1305-F. Training.

26       (a) Content of training.--A school entity shall provide  
27       school personnel with training that ensures that school  
28       personnel understand and are knowledgeable about:

29           (1) the school policies required under this article;

30           (2) determining the scope of a valid judicial warrant,

1       including the distinction between a signed judicial warrant  
2       and an administrative warrant;

3       (3) the requirements and effect of a wellness check;  
4       (4) when a request for a wellness check exceeds the  
5       boundaries of a wellness check; and

6       (5) the procedures to follow and that the required  
7       compliance is critical and understood by the school  
8       personnel.

9       (b) Annual training.--A school entity shall annually provide  
10      training required in this section at least 15 days prior to the  
11      beginning of each school year. In the event school policies  
12      required in this article are amended by resolution and adopted  
13      under section 1303-F, training required in this section shall  
14      occur within 15 days of the adoption of a resolution.

15      Section 1306-F. Professional development.

16       (a) Training required.--

17       (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each  
18      year thereafter, each school entity shall include in the  
19      school entity's professional development plan submitted to  
20      the department for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 four  
21      hours of training required under section 1305-F related to  
22      the following:

23        (i) Creating and promoting welcoming schools.

24        (ii) Implementation of the policies of the school  
25      entity under this article.

26        (iii) Limitations on enforcement agency ability to  
27      disrupt a student's right to an education.

28        (iv) Ensuring the privacy of student records as  
29      required by Federal and State law, including the right of  
30      a parent, guardian or student who is over the age of 18

1                   to opt out of sharing directory information.

2                   (2) A school entity may use the materials made available  
3                   by the department under subsection (b).

4                   (b) Information required to be posted.--The department shall  
5                   compile, develop and post the following on the department's  
6                   publicly accessible Internet website, which may include  
7                   materials already publicly available:

8                   (1) Recommended guidelines and educational materials for  
9                   the training required under subsection (a).

10                   (2) Recommended resources and age-appropriate education  
11                   materials on a right to education, the right to access an  
12                   education free from fear of immigration enforcement and the  
13                   safeguards on the release of information without consent.

14                   (3) Recommended responses to requests for information or  
15                   access at a school entity or a school zone.

16                   (4) Recommended guidelines and education materials for  
17                   anti-bullying at a school entity or school zone and awareness  
18                   and prevention of bullying related to immigration status,  
19                   ethnicity or national origins.

20                   (5) Recommended individual and schoolwide supportive  
21                   services and restorative school climate programming to  
22                   address any fear and trauma experienced by students and  
23                   school personnel from actual or potential enforcement action.

24                   Section 1307-F. Report.

25                   No later than five days after an action by an enforcement  
26                   agent occurs at a school entity or school zone, the  
27                   superintendent shall submit a written incident report to the  
28                   board of directors or governing body of the school entity. The  
29                   incident report shall contain the following information:

30                   (1) The date and location in which the action was

1       requested, whether granted or denied by the designated school  
2       personnel of the school entity.

3       (2) The type of action, whether a request for  
4       information or a request for entry.

5       (3) The number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken  
6       into custody because of granting the request for information  
7       or entry to the school zone.

8       (4) The requesting enforcement agency, department and  
9       official responsible for the action.

10       (5) Written notes recorded by the designated school  
11       personnel of the school entity documenting:

12        (i) requests made by the enforcement official;

13        (ii) action taken by the enforcement official while  
14       in the school zone;

15        (iii) the enforcement official's treatment of the  
16       subject of the warrant;

17        (iv) the enforcement official's treatment of the  
18       student population of the school entity, if any occurred;

19        (v) the enforcement official's treatment of the  
20       school personnel; and

21        (vi) whether the designated school personnel or any  
22       other individual in the school zone witnessed any act by  
23       the enforcement official that appeared to have exceeded  
24       the lawful authority of the enforcement official while  
25       executing the warrant.

26       (6) A thorough description of the circumstances that  
27       purportedly justified the action.

28       (7) A copy of the credentials provided by the  
29       enforcement official, including a copy of the official's  
30       identification documents and any warrant and subpoena.

1                   (8) An overview of individual supportive services and  
2                   schoolwide restorative school climate programming available  
3                   and offered to students and personnel.

4                   Section 1308-F. Department guidelines.

5                   Within 30 days of the effective date of this section, the  
6                   department shall develop and publish guidelines to assist school  
7                   entities in the implementation of this article. The department  
8                   shall review and update the guidelines, as necessary, but no  
9                   less than annually. The department shall post guidelines issued  
10                   under this section on the department's publicly accessible  
11                   Internet website.

12                   Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.